

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electrosurgical apparatus comprising:
- 5 first and second elongated grasping jaws, each jaw including a tissue contacting surface in face-to-face relation with the tissue contacting surface of the other jaw;
- at least one electrode surface carried adjacent said tissue contacting surfaces and disposed to engage said tissue when grasped; and
- 10 tissue dam means for providing selected compression to the tissue within the tissue contacting surface.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a cutting blade movably disposed between at least two of said electrode surfaces wherein said at
- 15 least two electrode surfaces have opposite polarity.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said tissue contacting surfaces of said first and second jaws each have opposed elongated edges and said electrode surfaces are located on the edges of said tissue contacting
- 20 surfaces.
4. A Tissue grasping apparatus comprising:
- two grasping jaws, each jaw including an insulating tissue contacting surface;
- 25 said jaws further comprising two spaced-apart electrode surfaces adjacent said insulating tissue contacting surface, said jaws being in face-to-face relationship to provide a first offset face-to-face electrode surface pair, and a second offset face-to-face electrode surface pair;
- insulating surfaces; and
- 30 tissue dam means for providing selected compression to the tissue within the tissue contacting surface.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising a cutting blade disposed between said first offset face-to-face electrode surface pair and said second offset face-to-face electrode surface pair.

- 5 6. A method of promoting coagulation in tissue, comprising:

providing a pair of grasping jaws, each jaw including an insulating tissue contacting surface in face-to-face relation with said tissue and a pair of tissue dam members;

- 10 contacting surface of said other jaw, said jaws further comprising two spaced-apart electrode surfaces adjacent said insulating tissue contacting surface, said jaws providing first offset face-to-face electrode surface pair, face-to-face insulating surfaces, and a second offset face-to-face electrode surface pair, said electrode surfaces being connectable to a power source for providing an electrical current between said first and said second
15 electrode surface pairs, said electrode surfaces comprising a particular electrode surface pair being of like polarity;

closing said jaws having said tissue dam members on tissue to be coagulated, with said tissue contacting surfaces and said tissue dam members in contact with said tissue;

- 20 connecting said electrode surfaces to a current source to create a current flow between said first and said second electrode surface pairs and through tissue located between said tissue contacting surfaces to promote coagulation of tissue grasped between said tissue contacting surfaces.

- 25 7. An electrosurgical apparatus comprising:

a first moveable jaw and a second moveable jaw, wherein said first moveable jaw includes a first tissue contacting surface and said second moveable jaw includes a second tissue contacting surface, wherein said first tissue contacting surface and said second tissue contacting surface have a
30 substantially face-to-face relationship;

a first dam member, wherein said first dam member projects from said first moveable jaw;

a first insulating material, wherein said first insulating material comprises said first tissue contacting surface;

a second insulating material, wherein said second insulating material comprises said second tissue contacting surface;

5 a first electrode housed within said first moveable jaw;

a second electrode housed within said second moveable jaw; and

a means of connecting said first electrode and said second electrode to a power source for providing an electrical current between said first electrode and said second electrode.

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8. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a second dam member, wherein said second dam member protrudes from said first moveable jaw, wherein said second dam member lies adjacent to said first dam member.

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9. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a third dam member, wherein said third dam member protrudes from said second moveable jaw.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a fourth dam member, wherein said fourth dam member protrudes from said second moveable jaw, wherein said fourth dam member lies adjacent to said third dam member.

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